



Junction City, Kansas,  
SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1863.

**MEETING OF THE REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.**—The following members of the Committee were present at the meeting held at the Planter's House, Leavenworth, last Saturday: Chester Thomas, President; S. F. Atwood, Secretary; John J. Ingals, Sydney Clarke, and L. R. Palmer, by proxy. It will appear from the above names that the changes made last winter amounted to nothing. The best of feeling prevailed in relation to the various matters under discussion. They passed a resolution empowering the Chairman to call a meeting of the Committee to take into consideration the subject of nominating a Chief Justice, should a vacancy occur, after a decision of the question now pending before Messrs. Watson and Cobb, before the Supreme Court, shall have been decided.

#### SMOKY HILL VALLEY AND LEAVENWORTH.

We have faith in the Smoky Hill Valley. Such fertility of soil, beautiful scenery, mineral wealth, and that great natural advantage, an abundance of water, seals the fate of this Valley to no secondary standing among the great valleys of the continent. By this Valley is afforded a perfect line of communication, lacking a few artificial improvements, between the great plains of the West and the Missouri river. Along this route, two hundred miles west from Leavenworth, an industrious population exists, adding their labor to the advantages bestowed by Providence. There is not an unproductive spot within its limits, but a luxuriant growth of grass is to be found, which, with its bountiful supply of water, remarkably adapts it to the motive power of the frontier. So naturally perfect is this great thoroughfare that one span of horses can draw two thousands pounds over any portion of the road. Of such advantages the advocates of no other route can boast.

We have urged upon Leavenworth capitalists the advantages that would accrue to them from an opening and working of our Salt Springs, and later, the bridging of the Republican, Solomon, and Saline, with a view to bring the Santa Fe trade north of the Kaw, and thereby effectually secure it to Leavenworth. We have thus sought aid of Leavenworth, believing that the advanced market in the immediate neighborhood, consequent upon such improvements, would in a short time remunerate for any outlay. The rapid approach towards our Salt Springs, of the Leavenworth, Pawnee and Western Railroad, will cause them to be developed, and thus will arise, in the vicinity of the proposed bridges, a trade that will far outstrip that of Santa Fe, and throw into Leavenworth its millions annually. The facts are so practical and incontrovertible, that we are surprised Leavenworth energy has not been particularly directed to the Smoky Hill Valley. It is a useless waste of means and enterprise devoted to a field where exists a powerful rival, with a natural barrier between you and the game, while but a short distance to the right, lies an open, rich, unoccupied field, where no rival can enter.

But there is another desideratum for Leavenworth consideration. Our attention has been called to this subject again, by a very interesting article in the Leavenworth Times, under the caption, "Colorado and its Gold." Statistics are given, which show that not withstanding war and its concomitant absorptions have chiefly directed popular attention towards other fields of interest, yet Colorado has steadily and rapidly progressed in substantial improvements, until now she stands the proudest and most prosperous of American Territories. We cannot do this article justice in cutting it down, and therefore defer it until next week, when it will appear in full. It is a remarkable fact, that our assertion that by bridging the streams on the Smoky Hill Route almost the entire trade of New Mexico would be secured to Leavenworth, has not been disputed, but passed by in silence, by the champions of the old Route, while Leavenworth papers have endorsed the idea. We must be content for the present with the concluding paragraphs of the article:

"With a population of 40,000 people, increasing at the rate of 8000 a year, all dependent on the East for a large portion of staple supplies, that Territory possesses an immense commerce, which is rapidly assuming vast proportions. This commerce naturally seeks a buying market at the nearest and most available points; and as the Platte Valley is the easiest travelled route, the trade chiefly goes to Omaha and Nebraska cities, as being the most available points. At Leavenworth and St. Joseph have a considerable share, while Leavenworth has at present only a small portion of this trade.

"Kansas and Colorado are connected by ties other than geographical. The people are similar in their love of liberty, untiring energy and determined purpose. Many of the most enterprising citizens of Colorado were pioneers on the stirring scenes of Kansas. Hence they should be closely related commercially. Leavenworth should possess the monopoly of trade from Colorado. But the North Missouri towns derive the benefits of that trade because they have the advantage of nearness by practical travel routes. The distance from Leavenworth to the mouth of the Smoky Hill River is less than that from Denver to Omaha by the Platte. Let a road be opened up the Smoky Hill or Solomon Fork, and Leavenworth can rival all other commercial points for that trade, in that her merchants can greatly undersell up river town merchants, and also offer choice and sales from heavier stocks and greater varieties. The New Mexican trade is becoming a matter of deep concern to Leavenworth merchants, yet that commerce is far less in amount than that of Colorado. HOWEVER, BY A WELL ARRANGED AND SUBSTANTIALLY CONSTRUCTED ROAD LEADING UP THE VALLEY OF THE SMOKY HILL, ALMOST THE ENTIRE TRADE OF THESE TWO TERRITORIES COULD BE SECURED TO LEAVENWORTH. It only remains for her merchants and capitalists to open a practical commercial avenue of this character. Let that once be done, and a commerce already controlled by millions and annually increasing, would give its superior benefits to the building up of the future Great Metropolis of Kansas."

#### STONEWALL JACKSON.

Since the death of this chief of traitors, one or two religious journals at the North have been pronouncing eulogiums upon him. As his religious character has been under discussion since his death, we may be allowed our say. We will take a practical view of it, for sentimentalism has placed many a person in heaven whose claims fall far short.

We are informed that Jackson descended from an influential family, and we know he married into one of the first families of the Nation. Previous to the rebellion, we will admit his piety and fitness for heaven, in that he restrained the evil spirit that guided him through the war. Indeed, at the beginning of the war he was in doubt which side to take—and then was the time for him to have died. We are not to judge, but only express doubts. He was educated by his Government, having graduated at West Point with high honors in the same class with McClellan. When appointed to a cadetship, he is represented as having traveled on foot all the way from Washington to West Point. But how did he repay his Government for this kind and fostering care? He died, slaying his mother in the face! He joined those murderers of his Government and humanity, and dyed his hands more deeply in the blood of patriots than did the vilest of his coadjutors, and to add to his wickedness he invoked the blessing of Almighty God upon what we know to be sin against all that is good and just. We place him in the same category with Captain Kidd and John A. Murrill. If it is urged that a portion of Jackson's education made him a better man, we say that we take Murrill's excuse that his mother early taught him sin. But we will admit all this to be a political error.

Did he engage in honorable warfare? It was his troops, at the first battle of Bull Run, who made drinking cups of Yankee skulls, and transformed the bones of patriots into various styles of personal ornaments—an act so atrocious and savage-like that we doubt whether there is redemption for it. Had he possessed half the piety accorded to him his men would never have surpassed the Sepoy butchers.

Stonewall Jackson in heaven? Why, he was fighting to establish a Government, whose chief corner-stone is based upon an institution which makes it a crime to teach a portion of its inhabitants to read the Bible—that prompts a minister of the gospel to give a negro one hundred lashes because a testament is found in his possession—that justifies heading men up in barrels and rolling them into the river—and other acts of barbarism. There may be as much Christianity among such a class of people as among Pagans and Hindoos, but in view of the light they have had we doubt it.

#### THREATENED INVASION OF THE NORTH.

The War to be Transferred to the Loyal States.

If it will be over possible to attempt anything beyond the defensive even, this would seem to be the time. Since the first battle of Manassas, the Southern army has never had so evident an opportunity to gain a victory—a gain the Southern army, which has so often repulsed the enemy with sanguinary effort, cannot be said to have made on any occasion or at any time. A victory signifies something more than the preventing the success of an attack. Progress, conquest, or some step toward the conclusion of the war is involved in the idea of victory. With all our glorious battles, we have not yet recovered a single lost city or delivered any subjugated State from the thrall of the invader. If we can ever do such a thing we must hope to do it shortly, for we shall never behold our foe so weak again.

Defensive operations are no doubt more facile and surer of success in kind. While the Confederate army is what it now is, the enemy will be beaten whenever he crosses the Rappahannock or ventures again on the James. But defensive operations never will secure the acknowledgment of our independence or end the war. The Yankees will fight us forty years on the present terms. No people are more pertinacious, and Washington well noted this peculiarity of their character, that they are totally fearless until they see a bayonet at their breast, though they are remarkable for their pusillanimity. So long as war means the dispatch of men and money to a distance, and so long as they fail to see the columns of an invading army blackening their fields, lit by the flame of their houses and towns, they will be stubbornly determined to prosecute it. From the first day the only reasonable hope of the Confederacy has been the transfer of hostilities to the enemy's territory. If we cannot do that, the progress of invasion, however slow, must at a time overwhelm us. No treaty of peace is possible save that signed on the enemy's soil, and if our armies can ever go there at all, the time is at hand when they will do so.—*Richmond Examiner.*

#### What the Rebels Expect from the Copperheads.

The *Richmond Enquirer*, of the 13th, says:

"Our sympathies are all confined at home; yet it is just possible we may help those devoted Copperheads the only way we know how, also, that they, on their side, are now about ready to aid us in the only way we can accept their aid. If our troops should, this summer, appear within their borders anywhere between Cairo and Philadelphia, they would be hailed as friends by a population now pretty well cured of *E. Paribus Unum*. Their cry would not be Union but deliverance. Wait, then, and watch, and keep your lights burning, ye Knights of the Golden Circle!"

Those who complain of the "slowness" with which we are conducting the war for the suppression of the rebellion, should look at the French invasion of Mexico. Admiral De La Gravier arrived at Vera Cruz on the 27th of December, 1861—seventeen months ago—and yet the work of conquest has hardly commenced.

#### FROM VICKSBURG.

WASHINGTON, May 26. It is stated that a dispatch has been received from Gen. Grant speaking of an intercepted dispatch from Jeff Davis, promising the forces at Vicksburg that if they held out fifteen days he would send them 100,000 reinforcements. Also that Grant is perfectly confident of taking the city, but it must be done by investment and approach, and a week may be consumed in it.

Davis' promise of reinforcements of course refers to Bragg's army, but there is good reason to believe that Rosecrans will not be slow to prevent any movement of that sort. This dispatch was understood to be received this morning. Since then nothing whatever has been made public concerning the situation at Vicksburg.

CAIRO, May 27. We have been waiting all day for something later from Vicksburg, but it has not come either by boat or telegraph. Our latest from Sherman's landing is to Saturday forenoon.

On Friday morning Pemberton sent a flag of truce offering to surrender the place on condition that he be allowed to march out after grounding arms. Grant refused the terms, and at ten o'clock commenced an assault upon the fortifications. A sanguinary battle ensued, in which our loss was severe. The rebels fought with the coolness of desperation, reserving their fire until our forces came within murderous range. The rebels were driven back, however, by main force, into their last line of entrenchments. That was the situation Friday evening, and the contest had not been resumed when the boat left Saturday morning. The mortar boats were throwing an occasional shell. We have captured the batteries above and below the town, and the two wings of the army rest on the river above and below the city. If Pemberton escapes, he must cut his way through.

Logan is guarding the Black River bridge and it is believed he will be able to keep Johnston back, with any reinforcements he is likely to receive. I deem this statement reliable.

#### CHICAGO, May 27.

A special from Cairo to the Journal says a paroled prisoner who left Sherman's Landing on the 22d, says that before he left, he conversed with the bearer of dispatches from Pemberton to Johnston, who had been captured. The dispatch bearer says the number of rebels in Vicksburg is between 25,000 and 30,000.

On Thursday, the batteries on the hill north of the town were taken and turned on the enemy. On the evening of the same day the water batteries at the fort were captured. On the same evening the water batteries below the city were taken by Porter's gunboats. Friday, after the refusal to accept Pemberton's terms of surrender, Grant moved on his works, and the enemy were driven to the inner fortifications.

Grant felt certain he would be able to take Johnston, who has only about 10,000 men exclusive of what he may have by reinforcements. Grant's army is larger than is generally supposed, and numbers enough for the work on hand. It stretches completely around the doomed city, each wing resting on the river. Vicksburg is full of women and children, not only of the original inhabitants there, but of many who have come from the surrounding country for safety. Our wounded at the battle of Champion Hill numbered over 1,700. The enemy's loss is acknowledged not over half of that. We had about 20,000 troops engaged. The enemy about 10,000, according to the accounts of those wounded.

#### The Latest from Vicksburg!

CHICAGO, June 2. The following is the only corrected account of the Federal repulse at Vicksburg, on the 22d, yet published:

By 2 o'clock on the morning of the 22d, our artillery had destroyed three service magazines on the rebel forts, one on the centre and two on the left. On the centre the first and third brigades of Logan's division, commanded by Gen. Smith and Stevenson, advanced at half past 11 o'clock. Two regiments of Stevenson's brigade were provided with scaling ladders, forty feet long, but had no opportunity to use them, being driven back before reaching the rifle pits. Logan's men went on bravely, but were met by overwhelming numbers of the entrenched foe. Hundreds of them jumped into the ditches but the number who reached the parapet was small. Nearly two companies who rushed into the fort were captured. The flag of the 7th Missouri was placed on the parapet after seven color bearers were shot down, amid the terrific storm of bullets and grape shot. The third brigade maintained its position until recalled. They advanced, holding their fire to pour into the rifle pits after their ascent on the parapets. The enemy gave them volley after volley, as they approached, sending terrible destruction among their ranks. The loss of Stevenson's brigade will reach nearly 800. The left of Logan's and the centre of Quimby's joined in the assault like brave comrades, under Stevenson and Smith. Their courage and valor was great, but could not accomplish the work assigned them, but were driven back with heavy loss on the left. McClelland commenced the assault earlier than any other command. The first advance was made by McClelland's centre and Smith's division of two brigades under Col. Landrum and Gen. Barbrige. Early as 11 o'clock Landrum's men took the fort, and were in actual possession of it, when Gen. Osterhaus on their left made a breach on the south side of their works with his artillery. There were two companies of rebel soldiers in it at the time, one ran away and the other surrendered.

Landrum, on assuming possession of the fort, put pioneer forces to work to throw up earthworks in the rear, so as to bring the guns of the fort to bear upon the rebels.

In constructing fortifications the rebels left the rear of all the forts open, to give them an opportunity to send out couriers the event of our success in driving them out. The flags of the 11th Ohio, 17th Illinois and 19th Kentucky floated from the inner slope of the parapet from half past 11 A. M. till 4 P. M. At the latter hour the rebels were seen preparing for a charge on the fort. Our men did not receive the support which had been promised, and were compelled to fall back, leaving the enemy again in possession of the fort.

Between 12 and 1 o'clock the 16th Indiana made a desperate charge, succeeded in capturing the fort to the right of the one in possession of Col. Landrum, held it gallantly against a determined assault, until relieved by the 48th Indiana, from whom it was taken by surprise.

The fighting on the left was done by the divisions of Gen. Carr, Osterhaus and Smith, and was of a more desperate character and of longer duration than that of the right of the centre. McClelland and his men performed their part with energy and determination, but were unable to dislodge the enemy from their works, save temporarily.

The assault on the right commenced soon after 10 o'clock, by Gen. Thayer's brigade of Steele's division, consisting of the 94th, 26th and 12th Iowa regiments. Gen. Blair on the left of the right wing, moved his men forward for bloody work. Soon after the commencement by Steele, a volunteer party of 150 men went up to the enemy's works, crossed the ditch, and climbed over the parapets. The rebels were afraid to show their heads above the rifle pits long enough at a time to fire at this little band. The storming party looked in vain for support, which had been promised it by the brigade which had been ordered to follow it. Finally, all but one of the hundred and fifty got discouraged and sought shelter in a deep ravine. Wm. O. Bogden, a private of Co. B, 8th Missouri, refused to retreat a single step. When his comrades left him he dug a hole in the ground with his bayonet and planted the flag staff in it, within twenty yards of the enemy's rifle pits. He then sat down beside it and remained all day. Blair finally made a charge, but was repulsed with terrible loss. Gen. Tuttle's division joined in the assault on the right, but shared the fate which befell others. The whole affair was nothing more than a single charge of the enemy's works which was unsuccessful and disastrous.

Whether from bad management or disobedience of orders on the part of those to whom high commands were entrusted, or from the dreadful character of the work to be performed, we will not attempt to decide. There appears to have been a want of co-operation between subordinate and superior officers. Commanders of storming parties went gallantly forward, but were left to perish for want of support. Regiments and brigades advanced nobly, but only to be disappointed in their expectations of receiving success and help. The result of the battle has been disastrous to us in the loss of nearly 2000 brave men.

We lost no ground, and the army is not demoralized by failing to take the strongest fortified place in the South. The rebels, no doubt, feel encouraged by their success in keeping us from their works. This feeling may operate against us in dispelling the gloom which could not but prevail in an army routed for the fifth successive time, as the rebels were at Big Black River. A correct estimate of our loss on the 22d will place the figures at 2000. Of the wounded it is impossible to get an accurate estimate so soon after the engagement. The loss of the enemy was trifling, probably less than one-fourth that of ours. Two companies of the 7th Missouri were taken prisoners. This includes all of our captured, except the wounded who fell into their hands on the fortifications.

No second attempt to take Vicksburg by assault will be made. I think the place can be reduced in a very short time, and at a very small sacrifice of life, by regular approaches. That plan will be adopted by Grant. To starve out the garrison would be a long and tedious operation, and the attempt might not be successful in the end, as the rebels are reported to have six weeks' full supplies, and by putting men on short allowance can make this last twelve weeks. There is not much danger of an attack in the rear.

A bearer of a rebel dispatch was captured a day or two since, on his way to Jackson with a message from Pemberton to Lee, advising him not to attack Grant in the rear with a force of less than 50,000 men. The rebels cannot muster any such force within three weeks in this Department. Loring has 10,000 badly frightened men at Hazlehurst. Other smaller bodies may be collected and make the aggregate of 20,000, but no large army can be raised outside of Vicksburg without withdrawing troops from Virginia and Tennessee.

IMMENSE EMIGRATION WEST.—L. M. Amala, Esq., former editor of the *Mining Life*, published at Central City, Colorado, has just arrived from that Territory. He informs us that the emigration now passing over the plains is immense—probably greater than ever before, except during the first great rush to California. During the sixteen days that he was on the plains he met an average of five hundred wagons per day, all loaded with emigrants. On one day he met eight hundred wagons filled with families and their furniture. Immense droves of stock were following these great caravans. This emigration is divided between Colorado and California, about one-third resting on this side of the mountains. These are the great regions of the West being filled up with thrifty pioneers.—*Ex.*

EMANCIPATION.—Rebel reports allege that three thousand negroes left Hinds Co., Mississippi, after Grierson's raid.

#### FROM GRANT'S ARMY.

A Capital Letter from a Private Soldier. BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY. CAMPAIGN.

[From the Chicago Tribune, May 27.] The following letter from Sergeant J. F. Branch, of the 20th Illinois volunteers, to his wife, will be read with deep interest. It gives a vivid, and, no doubt, a truthful description of the first six days of Grant's campaign, after he landed at Bruinsburg. This account has a freshness about it which can hardly be found in the details of army correspondents, or in the official reports of officers:

IN CAMP NEAR BIG BLACK, 30 Miles SOUTH OF VICKSBURG, May 6, '63.

DEAR WIFE:—We started from Milliken's Bend on the morning of the 25th of April at seven o'clock, and marched for Carthage, below Vicksburg. We marched nine miles and encamped. The roads were in good order, but ten days before they could not have been traveled at all. It was through a swampy country, and it was plain to be seen that if it rained we should have fun. And sure enough on the night of the 26th it began to rain in earnest, continuing all night. We were marching without tents, and were wet through by morning; but no matter. We started in a terrible thunder storm; companies F and E were the rear guard. It rained all day, and of all the roads I ever saw, ours was the worst. That day we passed over one hundred wagons stuck in the mud. We were drenched with water all day. We made six miles and encamped on an old deserted plantation, and slept in a bed of raw cotton without blankets, in our wet clothes. I slept first rate, got up in the morning all right, and started again. Made ten miles that day, and camped at Perkins' plantation, on the Mississippi river below Vicksburg. Perkins was a United States Senator six years ago. When he saw the Yankees coming, he set fire to all his buildings, cotton, &c., and took his family and left for Grand Gulf, twelve miles down the river.

We lay there until midnight, then started down the river bank by land, and arrived opposite Grand Gulf at 2 o'clock, P. M.; the same evening we crossed the river on gunboats and transports which had run the blockade before we left Milliken's Bend, and landed six miles below Grand Gulf and encamped. Gen. McClelland had crossed before us, and marched out the same night. On the morning of the 1st of May, we started at six o'clock out into Mississippi. We had gone about six miles when boom! boom! from the front told us of work ahead. The men quickened their pace without orders, and for four miles we marched so fast that the men began to drop from heat. Some six or seven were sun struck. About that time Gen. Smith, (commanding our brigade) came back and asked us if we could stand it to go three miles further; that we were wanted badly in front; that the rebels were holding McClelland very closely, and he must have help. We all said go ahead, and the next three miles were made on the double-quick, the noise of cannon and musketry increasing all the time; and at noon we unloading knapsacks, loaded guns, and were marched to the front. The Adjutant took command of the regiment, and we lay under fire for three hours, without any chance to retaliate. We were held as reserve. One regiment after another was sent to the front to try and dislodge the enemy from a high hill, which they had got possession of. The hill was covered with houses and full of deep gutters, surrounded by deep ravines, which with the side hills, were covered with canebrake so thick you could not see a road.

Every regiment that went into that cane brake came out badly cut up, and in confusion. It was no use trying to take the hill from the front. All this time two 12-pound guns of the rebels were making bad work among our boys, and could not be silenced by our guns. At 2 o'clock P. M., the 20th and 45th were called in and sent to the left and rear of the coveted hill. We went and lay in a deep ravine, awaiting orders, when Gen. McPherson came down and gave the following order: "Swing that 20th around so its left will rest on the right of the 45th, and go up that hill and give those rebels h—ll!" Quick as thought we swung around and started up the hill so steep and thick with canebrake that we had to draw ourselves up by the cane, and when we made the top of the cane we were within 15 rods of the rebel battery. Then the order was given to fire bayonets and charge the battery. We did so with one of those peculiar wild yells; but when within five rods of the guns, a line of rebels rose, as if out of the ground, just behind the guns, but they did not get time to fire a gun. We stopped short without order and fired one solid volley into them; and what we did not kill and wound left on double quick. We then went ahead, took the guns, killing and capturing the gunners. I straddled one of the guns and fired two shots at the retreating rebels. Then we started to follow them and found a squad lying in a gulley, which we captured. That set me to thinking, and I broke out on my own hook and found seven rebels in one gulley hid. I ordered them to throw down their guns. They did so all but one of them. He started to run down the ravine, I "hauled" him, but he would not stop, and I shot him dead. The other six I took to the rear and delivered up to a Captain who had a squad already. We took on the hill over seventy-five prisoners—this was on the left.

All this time the fight was raging terribly on the right, and McClelland could not rest them. He sent to the left for Stevenson's brigade of our division. They went over and charged the hill, as we had done, and took it in less than an hour. So you see Logan's division turned the day in our favor. On the right, left and centre we followed our advantage closely and chased

the rebels all day until dark, when, as we raised a steep hill, we were greeted with a roaring volley from the brow of the hill. The 20th and 40th climbed the hill, formed and advanced; fired one volley, when the "grey-locks" straddled again, leaving us in possession of the field and their commander mortally wounded. We lay down on our arms for the night, and thus ended the 1st day of May, 1863. But the best is to be told. Not a man of the 20th was either killed or wounded in the charge or pursuit. A miracle, surely, for I never heard bullets fly thicker in my life. We killed their commanding general, Tracy, captured a colonel, several captains and lieutenants, and 750 prisoners; killed and wounded, through the day, 3000 men. We lost, all told, through the day, about 460 killed and wounded. No prisoners.

May 2d.—We started in line of battle, with the 20th deployed as skirmishers, and went two miles in that way, but found the rebels had run; and we marched into Port Gibson, as pretty a little town as I ever saw, of about 2,000 inhabitants in peaceable times, but they were scared out of their homes. Here the rebels had burned the wire bridge and railroad bridges, and run again.

Logan's division took a circuit of nine miles to get there in order to cut off their retreat, but they were too fast for us, and we started again, marching half the night, to cut them off at Greystone Ferry, but again they slipped us.

On the 3d of May we crossed Big Bayou Pierre on an iron bridge, which the rebels failed to destroy, and marched one and a half miles, when we were brought up all standing, by six shells thrown into us from the front. We immediately lay down while our batteries tried the rebel batteries, and while laying there I went to sleep and slept for an hour, with shells flying both ways.

And the end of an hour I was waked up; and we formed in line, and advanced to take the rebel batteries; but when we got to them they were not there—gone again. So we pushed on one mile, when the rattle of musketry and whir of bullets told of another blockade. We pitched into it in earnest. The 20th was detached to support a battery, which we did in fine style, being entirely out of danger, for the rebels ran again as soon as our batteries opened on them. They had no idea of making a fight, but wanted to detain us until their forces, which were evacuating Grand Gulf, could get by us on another road. After we routed them Logan's division was ordered to take the Grand Gulf road and try to cut off their retreat; and we traveled half the night in order to do so, but again they were too fast for us. We picked up a great many stragglers, captured over 10,000 pounds of meat, many horses, mules, &c., but the main force crossed Big Black before us about an hour, and planted artillery on the opposite side to prevent our crossing. They shelled the camp of the 30th Illinois, killing and wounding twelve men. Our batteries opened upon them, when they ran as usual, and we are laying here waiting for rations, ammunition, and 60,000 more men, which are on their way here.

Grant is going to make a clean thing this time. It cannot fail. There is not a man in this army that for a moment thinks of anything else but the taking of Vicksburg, and that soon. It will certainly be done. We are within nineteen miles of the impregnable place now. Grand Gulf was thought a better place than Gibraltar until we crossed the river, then it fell of its own weight. Our gunboats had tried three times in vain to take it. When the rebels left, we captured two 128 pound columbiads, two 6-inch rifled guns, and two 8-inch rifled guns of superior English make. All the ammunition they use against us is of English manufacture.

Two negroes ran away from Vicksburg yesterday and came in. They say the rebels are moving their commissary and quartermaster stores from Vicksburg to Jackson, thinking we will cut them off, or it will be taken.

The weather here is very warm in the daytime, but the nights are cold. Five nights since we left Milliken's Bend. I slept what I did sleep in wet clothes, without blankets. Our blankets were on the wagons, which were fast in the mud and did not come up. After the battle I went into a house and simply took a good double blanket. I expect the Copperheads up your way will say I am an "Abolitionist thief." So be it; I am an Abolitionist, and if living on these rebels is stealing, I am a thief, for we have been on one-third rations for the last four days. "One-third rations" means just nothing at all; and if we did not forage we would starve, and which we don't propose to do in the land of plenty, and the rebels own it all.

My health was never better. I can eat anything or everything. I am Acting Orderly. I ate strawberries out of an old peach garden yesterday. It is now here like the middle of July, but I am good for the hot weather, I think.

#### A Furchel Boat Run Destroyed.

A dispatch to the Navy Department from near Vicksburg, dated May 25th, says:

Sir:—I have the honor to inform you that the expedition under command of Lieut. Commander Walker, after taking possession of the forts at Haines' Bluff, was perfectly successful. Three powerful steamers and a ram were destroyed at Yazoo City. The ram was a monster, 810 feet long and 70 feet beam, to be covered with 4-inch iron plates. Also a fine Navy Yard, with machine shops of all kinds, saw mills, blacksmith shops, &c., were burned. The property destroyed and captured amounted to over two million dollars. Had the monster been finished she would have given us some trouble. One battery was destroyed at Drury's Bluff. Our loss in the expedition was 1 killed and 7 wounded. DAVID D. PORTER, Rear Adm'l.